



# Student Resource Center: A Roadmap to Graduation



*School Committee Presentation - July 21, 2021*



# Agenda

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1. Dropout Prevention
2. Data
3. Staffing
4. Resource Center Focus
5. Next Steps



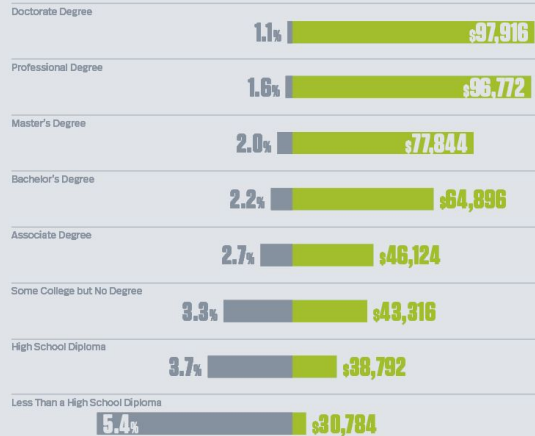


## Northeastern University

## EDUCATION PAYS

Median  
Earnings  
AVERAGE \$62,066

Unemployment  
Rate  
AVERAGE 3.75%



All salary data is sourced from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

# Dropout Prevention

## What is it?

A Student Resource Center will be established to recruit and re-engage students who have dropped out of school through direct outreach to students, families and community-based organizations while also coordinating and aligning services in the District's alternative school portfolio to better meet the needs of our most at-risk students.

## Why is it needed?

The current district-wide dropout rate is over 9% with more than 350 students who are estimated to currently reside within the district, who are school-aged, haven't obtained a diploma or GED and are not currently enrolled in any school or academic program next year.





## Data

School Year	Annual Dropout Rate	4-year Cohort Dropout Rate
2019-20	3.3%	9.4%
2018-19	3.7%	8.9%
2017-18	2.8%	5.3%
2016-17	1.2%	6.5%

The cohort dropout rate is the percentage of students in a cohort who dropped out of school at any time in grades 9–12 (over a 4-year period) and did not return. The annual dropout rate is calculated by dividing the number of students who drop out over a one-year period by the October 1 grade 9–12 enrollment, multiplied by 100. Dropouts are those students who dropped out of school between July 1 and June 30 of a given year and who did not return to school, graduate, or receive a GED by the following October 1. In summary, in order for the 4-year cohort dropout rate to decrease, we need to see a consistent decrease in the annual dropout rate from year to year.





## Data

School Year	Annual Dropout Rate	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dropout Rate	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dropout Rate	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dropout Rate	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dropout Rate
2019-20	3.3%	3.4%	3.3%	3.4%	3.0%
2018-19	3.7%	1.9%	4.4%	4.0%	4.5%
2017-18	2.8%	2.6%	3.0%	3.2%	2.4%
2016-17	1.2%	0.8%	1.2%	1.5%	1.4%

The individual grade level dropout rates are determined by taking the total number of dropouts within each grade and dividing it by the enrollment for that grade in the given year. The overall annual dropout rate is calculated by taking the total number of dropouts in grades 9-12 and dividing it by the total enrollment for that given year for all grade levels.

The rate is calculated using this formula:

The final dropout rate = [(Summer Dropouts + School Year Dropouts) – Returned Dropouts] / High School Enrollment





***\*The Director of Alternative Education is a pre-existing position that existed within Lowell Public Schools until it was cut in 2017 due to budget constraints. The recommendation before the committee is to restore the position and update the job description to reflect a 12-month work schedule***



## Staffing

What resources are recommended to improve support for students?

- Director of Alternative Education (\*restored)
- High School Student Outreach Liaison
- Middle School Student Outreach Liaison
- Clerk (Student Resource Center)



## Student Resource Center Focus

- Coordinate outreach to dropouts via mail, phone, and home visitations
- Review transcripts and provide individual student counseling to develop a roadmap of what each student will need to complete school with identified milestones to celebrate success
- Referral to LHS credit recovery, after dark programming, and day and summer school classes to support the road map to graduation
- Assist students in enrolling in an appropriate LPS high school or alternative school program based on student need
- Follow-up with students and families after placement to support continued engagement.
- Connect students and families to various community partners for support programs
- Provide life and career workshops for students



## Next Steps

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- Approve and post the Director of Alternative Education position
- Develop, receive approval and permission to post the outreach liaisons and clerk positions
- The Director of Alternative Education will review dropout data with LHS staff and Director of Data and Accountability to identify at risk students
- Department to begin the outreach August 2021
- Department to begin to identify community partnerships
- Department to begin transcript reviews of identified students to develop roadmaps to graduation.